

Message

---

**From:** Sean Reilly [sreilly@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 8/7/2019 3:16:02 PM  
**To:** Idsal, Anne [idsal.anne@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Request for comment on upcoming article related to your updated recusal statement  
**Attachments:** Recusalupdate.pdf

Dear Ms. Idsal:

I'm writing a story that will probably run tomorrow on your updated May 2019 recusal statement (attached), which we've obtained via a FOIA request. I reached out to EPA's press office last week, but have thus far received no response, so it seemed prudent to touch base directly with you on a couple of points:

- 1) The updated statement notes that you had been previously been recused from participation in matters pertaining to the "Texas Regional Haze 5 Year Program Report" and the "Texas SO2 Transport SIP." During that recusal period, were there any specific rulemakings or other regulatory matters in which you were unable to participate as a result and, if so, what were they?
- 2) The story will also note that you are in a position as acting assistant administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation to play a decisive role in matters that directly affect Texas, including a proposed regional haze rule, a proposed rule related to the SSM SIP Call, and several SO2 nonattainment designations.

In regard to the regional haze proposal that you signed last August as Region 6 administrator, the story may quote David Baron, managing attorney of Earthjustice's Washington, D.C. office, as saying that the Texas haze program was "very intricately" connected to the Texas SO2 Transport SIP and that your participation in the former thus presented an appearance regarding your impartiality in the matter. The story may also quote Luke Metzger, executive director of Environment Texas, as saying that your involvement in matters that have been before TCEQ doesn't necessarily represent a conflict of interest, but that you have "clearly been put in that position [as acting EPA air chief] for a reason, reflecting the president's emphasis on rolling back environmental laws."

Do you have any comment on either Mr. Baron's or Mr. Metzger's statements?

My deadline is 11 a.m. tomorrow. Also, in regard to a longer-term matter, I put in a standing interview request with the press office last month on behalf of myself and my colleague, Maxine Joselow. While we haven't received a reply to that request either, I just want to emphasize that we would welcome the opportunity at any time to sit down with you and discuss your priorities as acting A.A., your views on issues facing OAR, your reasons for accepting the position, etc.

Thanks very much,  
Sean Reilly

Reporter  
E&E News

**Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

202-446-0433 (Desk)

Skype: Sreilly\_69

[sreilly@eenews.net](mailto:sreilly@eenews.net)

Twitter: @SeanatGreenwire

**E&E NEWS**

ED\_002918\_00038743-00001

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM